

INFORMAL SECRET REPORT

184989

COUNTRY

Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 19 April 1948

SUBJECT

Fifty Seventh Guards Rifle Division
Movements and Other Soviet GR Notes

NO OF PAGES 3

PLACE
ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO

25X1X

25X1A

SUPPLEMENT 16
REPORT NO.

25X1A

1. [REDACTED] troops of the 57th Guards Rifle Division stationed in Naumburg (J89), Weissenfels (J99) and Zeitz (K08) were transferred by rail to the Eisenach area (RV6). This destination appeared on a travel order, [REDACTED] issued 25X1A [REDACTED]. A total of 42 trains was used in this movement. Some units returned to Naumburg on [REDACTED] 25X1A

25X1C

2. During the loading operations, no closed units were moved in a single train; infantry and artillery troops were shipped together. The following troops were seen during the operation (partly by [REDACTED] railroad personnel):

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a. At the Naumburg-Ost Bahnhof: approximately 1,200 infantrymen wearing shoulder straps and coat cuffs of raspberry red with black piping.

b. One engineer battalion of 600 men wearing black straps and cuffs.

c. Thirty-eight 50 mm long-barreled AT guns with tractors. The crew wore black insignia with red piping.

25X1X

d. Four 105 mm assault guns on T-34 chassis; twelve 150 mm guns with tractors.

e. Entrained at Weissenfels during the same period were: approximately 800 infantrymen, twelve 50 mm AT guns, and thirty-four guns not described.

f. Entrained at Zeitz during the same period were: approximately 400 infantrymen, eight AT guns, and ten guns not described. These troops appeared fully motorized.

3. The bridge column remained in Naumburg during the move. This unit possesses a bridge of 84.5 meters, weighing 16 tons, which is loaded on 42 Ford trucks with two-axle trailers and on 6 amphibious trucks of U.S. manufacture.

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

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- 25X1C 4. The following [REDACTED]
- Rifle division
AT vehicles
Engineers
Assault supply
- 25X1A 5. The following returned to Naumburg from Eisenach on the night of [REDACTED]
- a. Two rifle battalions.
- b. Four batteries of heavy howitzers (4 guns each), believed to be 122 mm, motorized, with tractors; previously stationed in Zeitz.
- c. Three batteries of 76.2 mm light field guns, motorized, with Studebaker trucks.
- 25X1A 6. Most of the dependents at Naumburg are being returned to Russia. Little consideration is given to Ukrainian families, who are shipped off rapidly, and a number of Ukrainian officers have been detached from their units and returned to the USSR. These transfers are thought to have been the result of an uprising in the southern Ukraine.
- 25X1X Comment: Two recent [REDACTED] stated that there had been some such outbreak in November 1947.)
- 25X1A 7. [REDACTED] a division from Saalfeld (J53) and Rudolstadt (J54) was transferred on 46 trains to the Ohrdruf area. These troops were unloaded at Ohrdruf (J15) and Crawinkel (J14).
- 25X1A 8. [REDACTED] twenty-four heavy, long-barreled AT guns were unloaded from a train at Mechterstadt-Settelstedt (H96) near Gotha. According to railroad workers, these guns had split trail carriages, round gun trail cross pieces, and solid rubber tires. Troops departed in the direction of Gross Behringen (H97). [REDACTED] they may be at the Berka airfield (H87), which is being used as a training ground.
- 25X1X [REDACTED]
- 25X1A 9. Railroad employees state that the Abterode (H50) potassium mine has been used as an ammunition dump since November 1947 and some of them report recent rail deliveries of 80 or 100 mm ammunition.
- 25X1A Comment: [REDACTED] similar activity at Abterode in January 1948.
- 25X1A 10. [REDACTED] two trainloads (140 axles each) of AA guns were unloaded at Visselbach (J37). There were forty of these guns similar to the German 88 mm AA type, with circular gun mount. The unit employing them occupies Barrack 24 at the eastern exit from Erfurt.
- 25X1A 11. Some troops in Jena went to the Gotha-Eisenach area in late January. [REDACTED] the Jena Löstedt (J76) barracks contained an armored unit equipped with an unreported number of tanks and another with fourteen SU-85's. The latter guns were the only ones under observation; it is believed additional SU-85's are housed in sheds.
- 25X1A 12. [REDACTED] Jena-Zwätzen (J77) held a fully motorized unit, equipped with Studebaker trucks.
- 25X1C 13. [REDACTED]
- 25X1X [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] 14. Grossröhrsdorf (A30) residents claim that an armored battalion is stationed in that area. [REDACTED] (A57) natives, [REDACTED] Sachsendorf barracks were occupied by an infantry unit on 15 January.

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15. Two hangars at the Alt Lönnewitz airfield have been dismantled, three are being used. The landing field is grass covered. There are two concrete runways, each 150 meters wide, running east-west and north-south. The latter runway was recently enlarged, necessitating closing of the Lönnewitz-Blumberg road. The field is surrounded by a wooden fence two meters high. Local residents have been evacuated to the Mühlberg/Elbe area. [REDACTED] the field was heavily guarded.
16. A pre-flight training battalion, said to be commanded by Colonel Kontradenko, is in occupation at the Alt Lönnewitz field. There are approximately sixty fighters, chiefly YAK-2 with plywood fuselage, and eight Soviet-built jet aircraft. The latter have airfoils of obtuse angle sweepback, two turbines in the front third of the wing unit, and a projected turret. Four Arado jet planes are being dismantled for scrap, following a test flight. According to an employee of the Deutsche Leichtbau-Gesellschaft, which is performing [REDACTED] the Soviet jets are thirty percent slower than German types. They are equipped with 50 mm cannon. A Russian officer is quoted as having said that the slower speed was deliberately contrived, as it made for easier attack on a number of targets during combat.

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